Recent Additions/Changes to CERS

July 2013 Update

Cal/EPA has implemented numerous additions and modifications to CERS since January 2013, but has not had the opportunity to communicate most of these changes to the CERS community due to the focus on EDT implementation. This document summarizes a selection of the most important additions and changes to the various parts of CERS since January 2013. In the future Cal/EPA intends to release timelier (and shorter) summaries of recent additions/changes.

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"CERS Central" Web Portal Additions

CERS / Unified Program Web Site Index http://cers.calepa.ca.gov/Index/

An alphabetical index of web pages and other resources related to CERS, electronic reporting, and the Unified Program. This page will continue to be expanded over time, and suggestions for new index items (with the pertinent URL) can be sent to CERS Technical Support. The page is available from the "Index" link on the left and top navigation links, as well as from the new Search page.

CERS/Unified Program Reporting Policies & Guidelines

http://cers.calepa.ca.gov/policy

A listing of CERS and electronic reporting-related polices and guidelines. This page will be continually updated over time, and is available from the left navigation links on every CERS Central page, as well as the new Index. Two new policy/guidelines pages were published at the same time as this page: CERS Document Upload Policy, and CERS Services Availability.

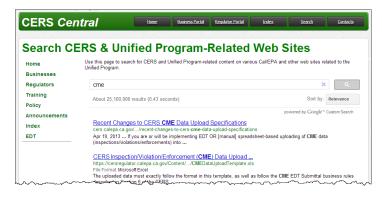




Search CERS & Unified Program-Related Web Sites

http://cers.calepa.ca.gov/Search/

This page uses a custom-filtered Google search to support keyword searching of the various CERS web sites, selected portion of the various State Agency sites related to the Unified Program, as well as the CUPA Forum web site. The page is available from the left navigation links on every CERS Central page, the "Search" link at the top of every page, and from the new Index page.



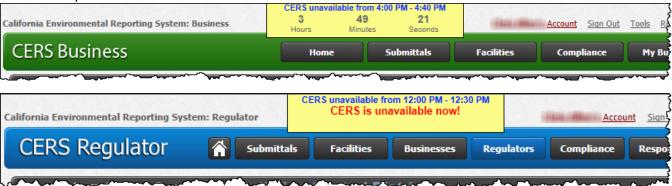
Future CERS Central Modifications

With the addition of the Index and Search pages, Cal/EPA will be looking to simplify the CERS Central home page and more heavily orient it toward CERS business users. The Regulator Portal Sign In link will still be shown on the CERS Central home page, but most other regulator-oriented links will be moved and better organized onto the Regulator Users Home Page (http://cers.calepa.ca.gov/regulators/).

CERS Updates Release Schedule and Notifications

As Cal/EPA approached completion of CERS EDT Services, it was able to reduce the number of disruptions during business hours caused by new releases/updates of CERS. Except when a critical update is necessary, CERS updates/releases will normally occur on Fridays between noon and 1:00pm. In April Cal/EPA published a CERS Services Availability page summarizing regularly scheduled downtimes.

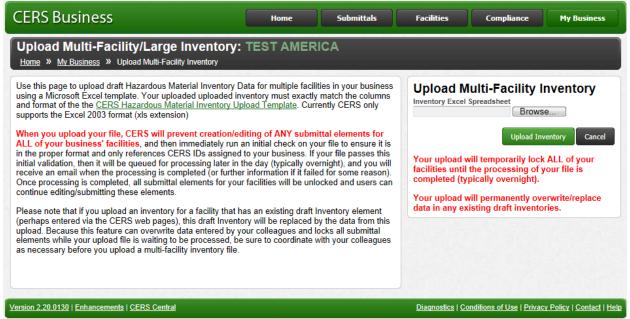
In recent weeks a feature was added to both the Business and Regulator Portals alerting users to an upcoming service disruption.



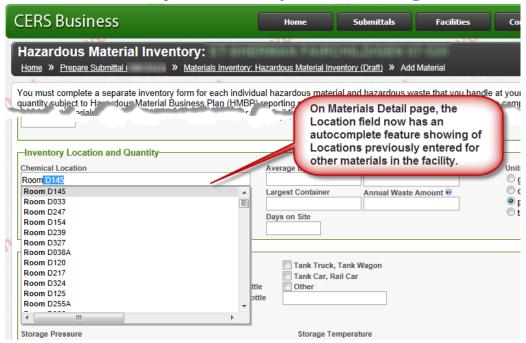
Business Portal

Multi-Facility / Large Inventory Uploads

Business users can use this new tool to upload inventories for **multiple** facilities using the same Microsoft Excel Inventory upload template used for a **single** facility. The inventories will be added to CERS as draft submittals, and will overwrite any existing draft submittal for the facilities included in the upload. This tool can also be used to upload a very large inventory (500+ materials) for a single facility (<2% of Inventories as of July 2013). Because handling these large files takes extensive server resources, the processing will be deferred for up to 24 hours, with the user receiving an email when the upload has been processed. Until processing is complete, the Inventory elements of **ALL** of the business' facilities are locked. Links to this page are available from the Business Portal's "Tools" menu (upper right of all pages) and from the Inventory Upload page.

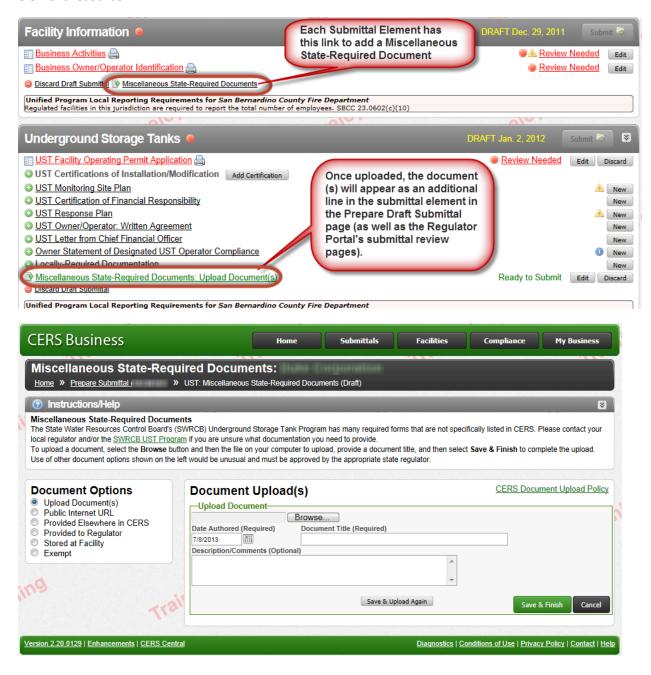


Location Field Autocomplete on Inventory Material Detail Page



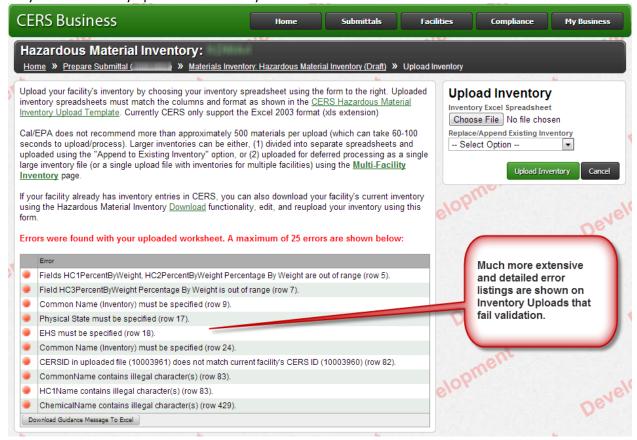
Miscellaneous Statewide Documents

CERS EDT implements very specific data standards to support the successful exchange of complex reporting data between local/vendor data systems and CERS. Any changes in reporting data will necessitate time-consuming changes in regulations and then sufficient time for Cal/EPA and users of CERS EDT services to retrofit their systems (aka "CERS3"). Until a CERS3 effort is implemented, any statutory or regulatory reporting requirements not currently captured in the Unified Program Data Dictionary will have to be collected using document uploads to the new "Miscellaneous State-Required Documents" resource added to each submittal element in CERS. Presently there are several UST-related forms/requirements that should be handled using this submittal element resource.

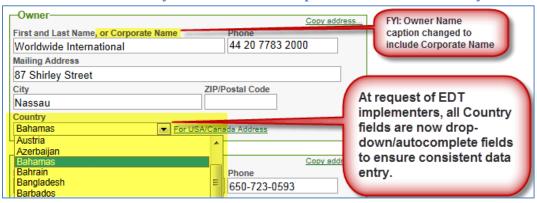


Inventory Upload Error Reports

When an inventory is uploaded using the Microsoft Excel Inventory Upload Template, Cal/EPA has implemented dozens of error checks and advisories to assist business users in resolving formatting and other data issues so they can successfully upload the inventory file without errors.

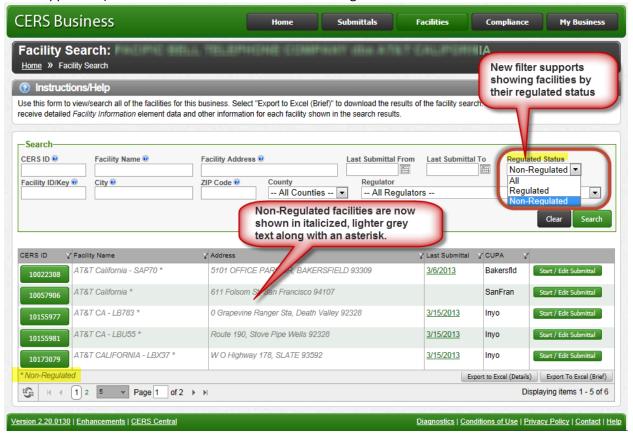


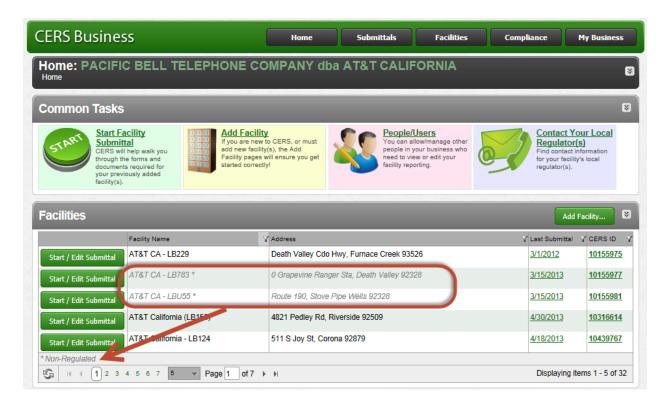
Address-Related Country Field Now Autocompletes to Standard Country Name List



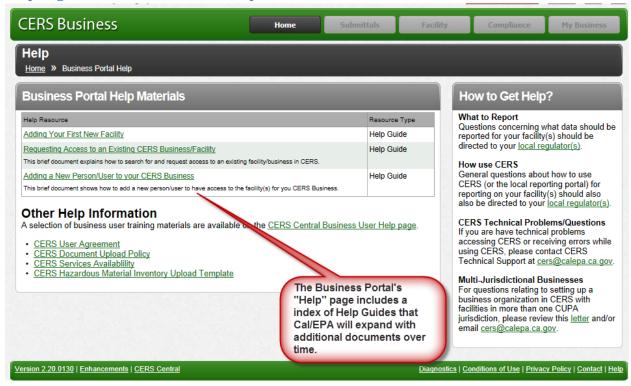
Non-Regulated Facilities Filterable/Highlighted

Facilities that are Non-Regulated (i.e., the *Reporting Requirement* for the *Facility Information* submittal element is *Not Applicable*) are now discernible in the facilities listings as shown below.





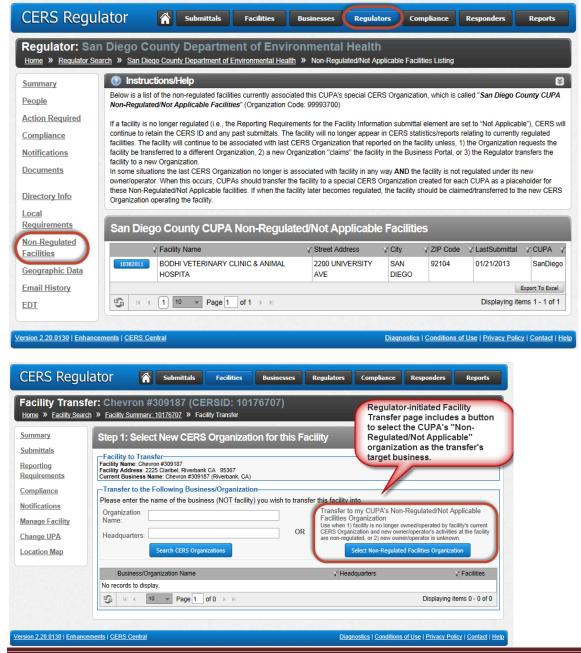
Help Page Includes Index of New Help Guides



Regulator Portal

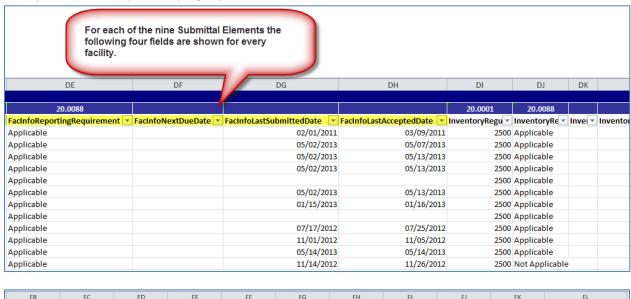
Non-Regulated/Not Applicable Facilities

Cal/EPA has directed CUPAs to retain a facility's CERS ID across different owner/operators to facilitate maintaining submittal and CME history of a facility ("plot of ground") to better meet federal RCRA and Public Right-to-Know requirements. There have been a number of scenarios where regulators have found it difficult to meet this requirement, and Cal/EPA has will continue to add feature to assist regulators with this need. One of these scenarios involved a facility being regulated under a **previous** owner/operator, while the **new/current** owner/operator's operations at the facility are no longer regulated under the Unified Program. The previous owner/operator wants the facility removed from their CERS Business, but the current owner/operator will not be using CERS. To address this and other situations, Cal/EPA created a special CERS Organization unique to each CUPA for temporarily or permanently transferring facilities that are no longer regulated or don't have a currently known owner/operator. Regulators can transfer facilities to and from the CERS Organization just like any other business. A list of the CUPA's facilities belonging to this special CERS organization are available from the "Non-Regulated Facilities" page of the Regulator Detail page.



Facility Search Export to Excel (Details) Download

When a user uses the "Export to Excel (Details)" feature on the Facility Search for a set of facilities, the Microsoft Excel download now includes a number of new columns about recent submittals and inspections that UPAs may wish to use to manage/review data. Using filtering features in Excel, users could for instance query which facilities have not yet submitted any submittals at all (FacInfoLastSubmittedDate is empty), or how many UST facilities have had a UST inspection in the past year (USTLastInspectionDate > than a specified date). Cal/EPA anticipates eventually developing reports in CERS to meet these kinds of needs as well.



			Inspection	18				
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A new set of columns was add	ed		07/02/2013					
to the end of the Facility Searc			07/02/2013					
Export to Excel (Details) down			07/02/2013					
that shows the last inspection			09/20/2012					09/20/201
date for each facility by CME			07/02/2013					
Program Element. In this exam	ple,	06/05/2012	06/05/2012	06/05/2012				
the download is being filtered			09/19/2012					09/19/2013
Excel to show facilities that ha			10/18/2012					10/18/2012
had Hazardous Materials Relea	ase		09/19/2012					09/19/2013
Response Plans (HMRRP)			07/02/2013					
inspections.			09/19/2012					09/19/2012

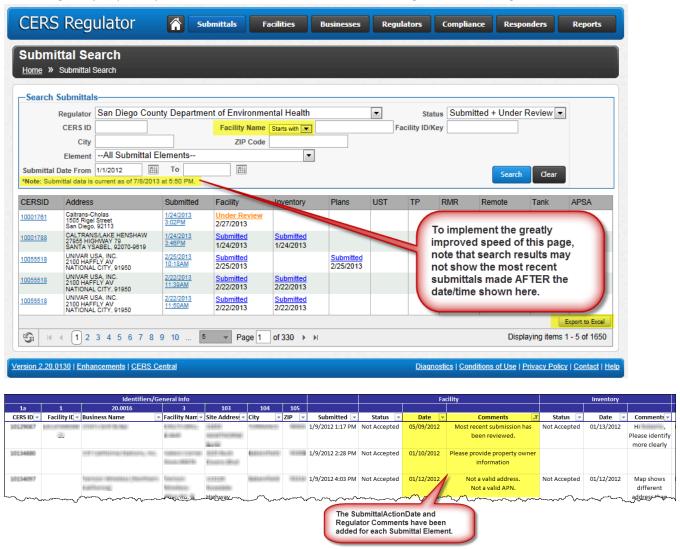
Action Item Processing Screens

A number of enhancements and additional data have been added to the Action Item Processing Screens during Q2 2013. Cal/EPA will be undertaking a major effort during the second half of 2013 to rewrite these screens to make them easier to use and to ensure Action Items that are no longer relevant are automatically deleted (e.g., delete User Access Requests if the user was granted access through some other channel since the request date). Some recent changes of note include:

- Regulator User Access Request processing screen has been modified to make it more obvious the
 request is for access to the regulator rather than a business, and warns approver if the requestor's
 email address does not follow typical government-related domains.
- Facility Transfer Request processing screen provides more information and links to other pages to help regulator's decide upon the request.
- Facility Merge and Facility Delete processing screens now support deleting of the request if it has already been acted upon through some other channel.

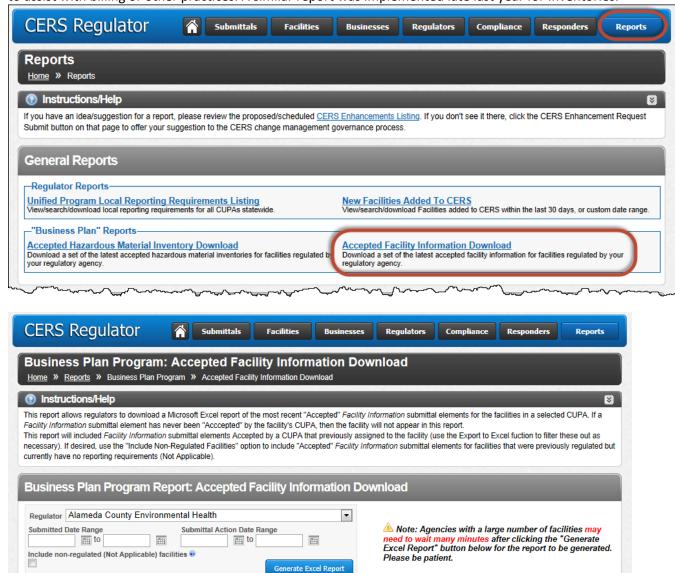
Submittal Search/Processing Pages

Based upon user requests, a number of additions/modifications were made to these pages over time including addition of a "Starts With"/"Contains" filter for Facility Name and adding the Regulator Review Comments and other submittal action data to the Submittal Search's *Export to Excel* feature. During June modifications were made to greatly improve performance of the Submittal Search for regulators with large number of submittals.



Accepted Facility Information Download

This new report added to the <u>Reports</u> page allows regulators to download a set of the latest **Accepted** Facility Information submittal element for facilities regulated by the specified UPA. This may be used by some regulators to assist with billing or other practices. A similar report was implemented late last year for Inventories.



Business Search

Version 2.20.0130 | Enhancements | CERS Central

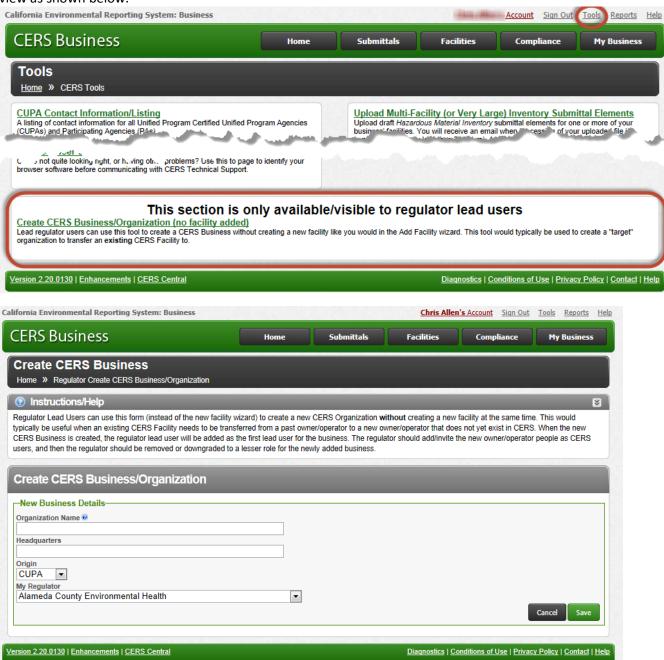
Cal/EPA has made a number of changes and enhancements to Business Search and Business Summary pages based upon user requests and new features being added to CERS. Some recent changes of note include:

- Addition of "Starts With"/"Contains" to the Business name filter
- Modifications to improve the speed of the Business Search page
- Prominent labeling of "Inactive" businesses on Business Summary page
- Environmental Contact added to Business Summary page

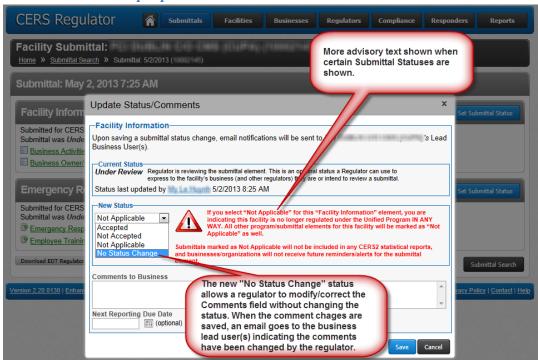
Diagnostics | Conditions of Use | Privacy Policy | Contact | Help

Create CERS Business/Organization without a Facility

Some regulators have had the need to quickly transfer an existing CERS facility to a new owner/operator who has not created a business/organization in CERS. The standard advice to use the "Add New Facility" wizard on the business' behalf does not apply since the regulator only want to create an "empty" organization to transfer an existing facility into. A new tool was added to the "Tools" page in the Business Portal that only regulators can view as shown below.

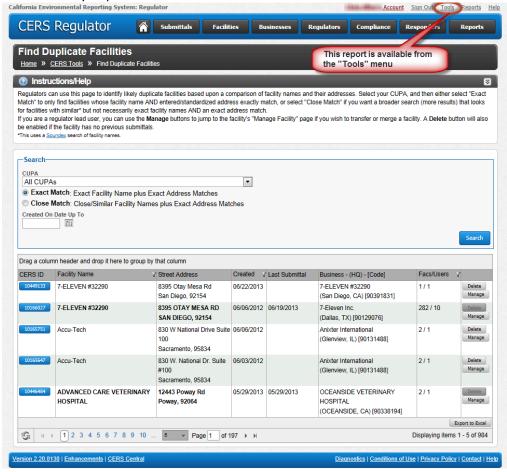


Submittal Action Pop-Up Screen



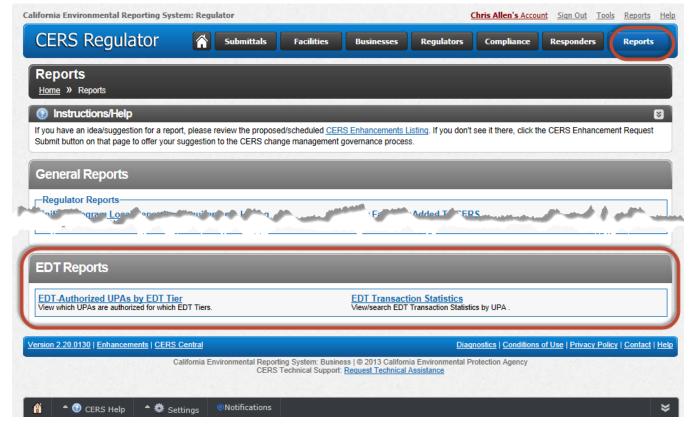
Duplicate Facility Report

Data seeding activities created many duplicate facilities in CERS. This report can be used to identify "exact" and "close" facility duplicate matches for a selected CUPA.



EDT Usage/Statistics Reports

Near the bottom of the *Reports* page are two reports showing summary statistics for EDT usage.

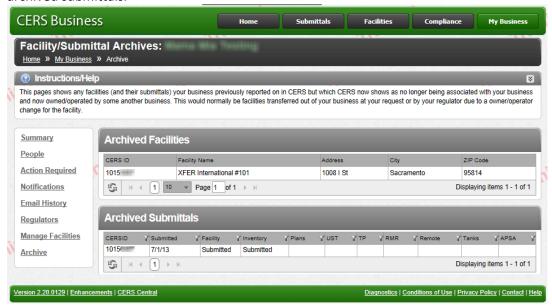


Miscellaneous Additions Related to Business and Regulator Portals

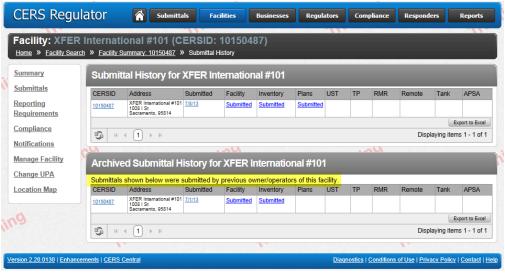
Past Submittals Not Visible to a Facility's New Owner/Operator

Starting in late June, the new owner/operator of a facility transferred via a Facility Transfer Request in CERS will no longer be able to view (or copy from) submittals previously submitted by past owner/operators. This changes primarily appears in the *Submittal History* and *Prepare Draft Submittal* pages. As has been previously the case, the exception to this would be when the regulator choses to transfer past submittals to the new owner/operator, which normally is only selected when a facility is being transferred to consolidate it under a single CERS business entity.

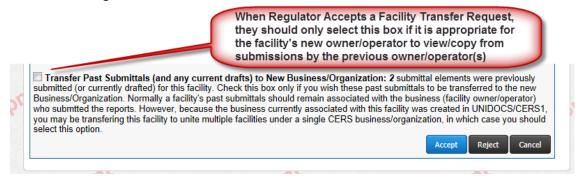
A facility's previous owner/operator(s) can use the *Facility/Submittal Archive* page (Under the "Submittals" menu) to view facilities they previously owned/operated and any submittal they made for the facilities. At some point in the future Cal/EPA will implement features allow previous owner/operators to see the **details** of their archived submittals.



Regulators can see ALL submittals for a CERS ID, with submittals from past owner/operators shown in a new "Archived Submittal History" section.



Reminder to Regulators related to this issue:

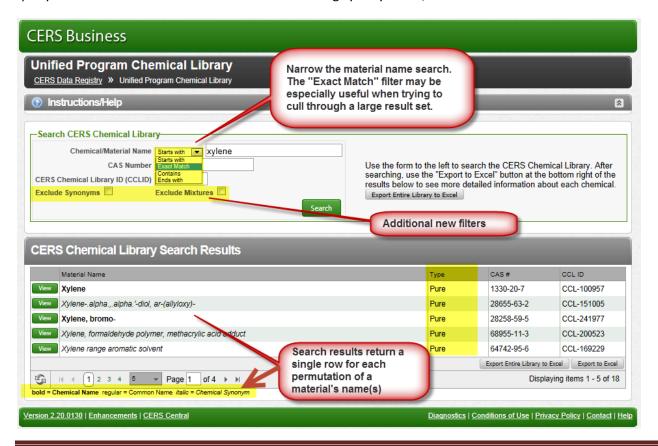


Addition of Additional Email History and Notification Pages

A number of pages were added in both the Business and Regulator Portals showing filtered views of CERS-generated automated emails as well as *Notifications* of actions taken by a CERS user. Places where these new pages appears include: the "My Account" page (under the "[Your Name] Account" link at the top of each portal's pages), as well under the Facility and Business detail pages in the Regulator Portal.

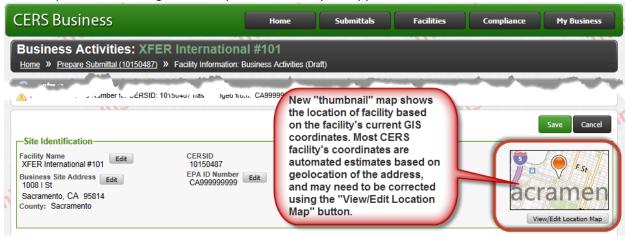
Chemical Library Search

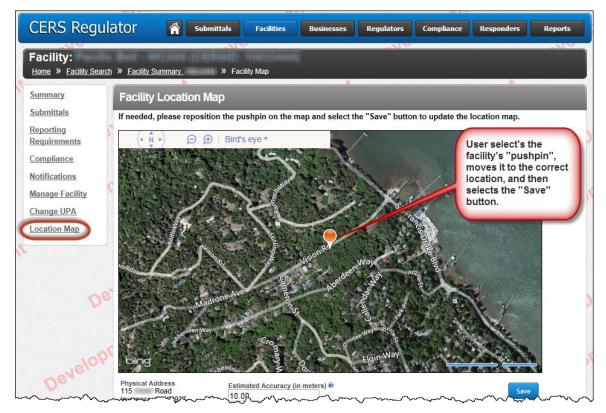
The search results for the general <u>Chemical Library Search</u> Page and the Inventory Submittal Element's *Add Chemical Search Page* were modified to more clearly show which entries are synonyms versus more "official" entries for materials with common and/or chemical names. A selector was added to the Chemical/Material Name search filter to match results that "Starts With", "Contains", "Ends With", or is an exact match of the query. Additional filters were also added for excluding synonym and/or mixtures.



Facility Location Map

When facilities were/are added to CERS, Cal/EPA uses an automated commercial service to estimate the facility's latitude and longitude based on the facility address. Many of these estimates are quite accurate, but some are not. Features were added in both the Business and Regulator Portals to allow the facility's owner/operators or its regulator to update the facility's mapped location.





CERS Enhancements Listing: Allows Comments and "Likes"

The CERS Enhancements Listing page (https://cersbusiness.calepa.ca.gov/Enhancement) was upgraded to allow signed-in users to enter non-anonymous comments (and or a "Like") for a specific enhancement request. The enhancement was requested by the CERS Regulator User Group at its December 2012 meeting. Although the updated Enhancement Listing page is now housed in the Business Portal, any Regulator User can access the

CERS Business Submittals **CERS Enhancement Detail** Home » CERS Enhancements Listing » CERS Enhancement Detail Add New Facility Screens: Allow Business User to... The Comments table below lists all the comments for the given Enhancement. Use the Add button to add your comment to the listed Enhancement. One comment is accepted per user. To view any comment or edit your comment use the Select button in the Comments table. -CERS Enhancement-Enhancement Title: Add New Facility Screens: Allow Business User to Override Default CUPA Mapping Enhancement ID: 63 Status: Proposed Origination: Cal/EPA and 2 business users Target Date: Assignee: None Portal: Priority CalEPA: Business Portal 6/21/2013 10:30 AM Signed-in users can add a Description: When business users add a new facility to CERS, the facility's CUPA is autor non-anonymous comment maintained in CERS between undaries are set by the US Postal CUPAs and valid Camernia ade. These initial mappings are correct m or edit a comment they Junat TourePA Tech.... previously entered. t: days **CERS Enhancement Comments** Last Update This enhancement has been mentioned in several Catherine Gause CalEPAUP 7/8/2013 Select Several multi-facility businesses have requested this. Ø 7/8/2013

listing using the username/password they use to access the Regulator Portal.

Regulator "Seeding" of Facility Records in CERS

Version 2.20.0130 | Enhancements | CERS Central

Cal/EPA completed its final round of seeding facility records in CERS provided by regulators on April 18. A total of 39 CUPAs either added or updated facility information for over 90,000 facilities, 350,000 inventory records, and 18,000 UST tanks. A summary of data seeding records counts is available at http://cersapps.calepa.ca.gov/Public/Seeding/. Data seeding results in a fair number of duplicate facility records, which regulators can help identify using the Regulator Portal's *Find Duplicate Facilities* report discussed elsewhere in this document.

Displaying items 1 - 2 of 2

Electronic Data Transfer (EDT)

Cal/EPA has completed implementation of all EDT-deliverables. Based upon some regulator comments to Cal/EPA staff, there appears to be some confusion about when Cal/EPA delivered EDT-related products to EDT implementers. The details of these releases have been published for the past two years on the CERS EDT Implementers Blog at http://cers.calepa.ca.gov/announcements/EDT/. The key deliverables of note include:

July 2011	First Draft of EDT Schemas released for public comment
July/August 2012	Cal/EPA invites all know data services vendors to begin testing initial test versions of the
	Phase I endpoints needed by most CUPA EDT implementers. Other vendors with CUPA
	sponsors added over the next 6 months.
<u>April 2012</u>	First Full 1.00 Release of EDT Schemas released based upon public comment
January 2013	Release of 1.05 EDT Schemas to capture errors/problems discovered by EDT testers and
	Cal/EPA
February 2013	Production release of Phase I EDT endpoints
April/May 2013	First Production use of Phase I EDT endpoints
June 2013	Production release of Phase II EDT endpoints (for CUPAs with local reporting portals)

CERS Development Priorities for the Remainder of 2013

Cal/EPA software development team will focus on the following activities through the remainder of 2013 and possibly into early 2013. Future priorities after that will come from Cal/EPA management and input via the CERS Enhancements listing from the CERS Regulator and Business User Groups.

- Assisting EDT implementers and CUPAs with their EDT implementations
- Implement enhancement for Submittal Review as discussed in CERS Enhancements #14, #13, #25, and #62.
- Rewriting and streamlining code in the Business Portal's New Facility Wizard and the various pages in the Business and Regulator Portals for initiating and processing Action Items.
- Provide support for printing most/all form (and document uploads?) of a submittal element as requested by many business users.
- Miscellaneous minor enhancement requests